



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Saratoga County FSA
50 West High Street
Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020

(phone) 518-885-6300 x2
(fax) 518-884-9101

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Al LaRue, Chairperson
Patricia Wood, Vice Chair & Advisor
Chris Koval, Reg. Member

Staff
Joanne Scoville, PT
Janelle Moore, PT

Loan Manager
Rebecca DeSorbe,
518-692-9940 x2

County Executive
Steven A. Ropitzky
Steven.ropitzky@ny.usda.gov

State Executive Director
James Barber

Next COC Meeting-
Feb. 3rd/March 3rd @
1:00 p.m.



January 2010

Saratoga County FSA News

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Albert LaRue! Al was re-elected to represent farmers from Day, Hadley, Edinburgh, Corinth, Providence, Greenfield, Galway, Milton, Ballston, Saratoga Springs & Charlton on the County Committee. Al was elected to his second consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area #1 are: Albert LaRue — Elected to the County Committee (COC), receiving 68 votes. Richard Smith — 1st alternate to COC, receiving 56 votes

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation. The Committee members held their organizational meeting January 5th and determined that Al LaRue will serve as County Committee Chairman and Patricia Wood will serve as Vice-Chairperson & Advisor.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses during crop year 2008. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments. Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Program

The Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Program (DELAP) provided a one-time payment to assist dairy producers who have recently experienced low milk prices and high production costs. Producers who were already enrolled in MILC received a DELAP payment in December. If you did not enroll or receive a DELAP payment, contact our office. January 19th is the final day to apply.

AGI Compliance Activities

USDA has partnered with the Internal Revenue Service to reduce fraud in farm programs, streamlining payment limits and help the agricultural industry meet requirements included in the 2008 Farm Bill. Individuals and legal entities with average AGI in excess of a specified average AGI limitation are ineligible for payments subject to that limitation. The limitations are: \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI for commodity programs; \$750,000 average farm AGI for direct payments under the DCP or ACRE programs; and \$1 million average nonfarm AGI for conservation programs. IRS and USDA have established an electronic information exchange process. This process electronically reviews data from tax returns filed for the applicable three-year period, performs a series of calculations, and compares these values to the AGI limitations from the 2008 Farm Bill. Written consent on approved FSA forms will be required from each producer or payment recipient for this process. **No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA and no FSA employee will view tax return information at any time during this process.** Participants whose AGI may exceed the limits will be offered an opportunity to provide third party verification or other information to validate their income.

You, the producer, will mail the consent forms directly to the IRS at the address no later than June 15, 2010. Do not return completed and signed forms to the FSA office. The consent forms are for IRS and contain personal information that we don't need. To obtain the forms, call or visit our office for the forms pertinent to your operation or go online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>. Timeliness is essential in order to avoid any delays in the issuance of 2010 program payments and the possibility of refunding 2009 program payments. Participants that **do not** submit the required form will be determined noncompliant with AGI limitations for the 2009 and/or 2010 crop, program and fiscal years.

Selected Farm Loan Interest Rates for January 2010

Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer	1.50 %
Emergency Loans	3.75%

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Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

Deadline to file a payment application for the 2009 calendar year ELAP is Jan. 30, 2010. ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions not covered under other disaster assistance programs. To be eligible for ELAP, producers must have crop insurance or NAP for all crops produced by the operation. Crops intended for grazing are exempt from this requirement for ELAP. Producers who meet requirements of socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer do not have to meet risk management purchase requirements.

All producers must timely file application notices of losses. Payment limitation for ELAP during the crop years 2009 through 2011, the \$100,000 limitation applies to payments received, both directly and indirectly, by a person or legal entity.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available. The **application deadline** date for the 2010 NAP coverage for Beets, Burlock, Chicory, Greens, Herbs, Leeks, Lettuce, Onions, Radicchio, Radishes, Scallions, Shallots and Turnips is **February 1, 2010**. The **application deadline** for other spring seeded crops is **March 15, 2010**.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. Those with NAP coverage must remember to timely file acreage reports and keep track of production and file a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Jan. 29, 2010, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2009 crop year. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

For more information about programs in your area, contact your local FSA office or log onto <http://fsa.usda.gov> and click New York under State Offices